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SEP 22 2006

Application No.: 10/774,234
Amendment dated September 22, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 23, 2006

REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments, and consideration of the application as amended.

By the above amendment, the Applicant has cancelled claims 29-39, 61, and 62. No new matter was introduced.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12-14, 23-25, 50, 51, 54-59, and 63-69 are now pending in this application.

1. Response to Restriction

In paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Action, the Patent Office imposed a restriction and identified the following inventions as distinct:

- I. Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12-14, 23-25, 50, 51, 54-59, and 63-69 drawn to "an arrangement for connecting decorative ornaments" in class 248, subclass 303; and
- II. Claims 29-39, 61, and 62 drawn to "a device for hanging a decorative ornament on a fixture" in class 332, subclass 405.

and requests that one of these inventions be elected for examination at this time.

The Applicant responds to this restriction with traverse. In the subject Office Action, the Patent Office summarizes its basis for imposing this restriction by stating,

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper." [Emphasis added.]

However, the claims recited in Group I and Group II have been the subject of examination for almost a year. See for example, the Office Action of October 4, 2005 in which claims from both Groups I and II were examined and, it is assumed, properly

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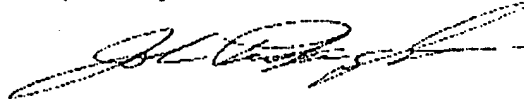
searched. Therefore, since the inventions recited in Groups I and II have already been searched, the examination of both of these inventions does not require any additional effort by the Patent Office. Thus, the Applicant submits that this restriction is improper. The Applicant respectfully traverses this restriction and requests that the inventions recited in the claims of Groups I and II be examined in this application.

However, for the sake of submitting a complete response, in the above Amendment, the Applicant cancelled the claims drawn to Group II, leaving the claims drawn to Group I pending in this application.

The Applicant believes that this Amendment addresses the Restriction imposed in the subject Office Action and places the application in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action on the merits of the application is requested.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicant's undersigned Agent invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: September 22, 2006.

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